

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14

NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCI-06 INT-08 SCEM-02 ACDA-19

L-03 PM-07 DODE-00 H-03 DRC-01 /211 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5940

AEC GERMANTOWN 938

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 6129

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, EEC, ENRG, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 29-31 US-EC CONSULTATIONS AND SOAMES VISIT:

ENERGY-URANIUM ENRICHMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5988

1. AS NOTED IN PARAGRAPH 10 OF EC BRUSSELS 5988, THE CASEY/ SOAMES CONSULTATION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE US TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THE EC SHOULD AVOID ANY RESTRICTIVE ACTION THAT WOULD EXCLUDE THE US FROM COMPETING FOR A PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S REQUIREMENTS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR RAISING THIS TOPIC.

2. ON OCTOBER 24, 1973, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DISCUSSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND POSSIBLE ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE A MARKET FOR THE ENRICHED URANIUM PRODUCED. NO DECISIONS WERE MADE AND DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7.

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3. COMMISSION SOURCES TELL US IN CONFIDENCE THAT IF EURODIF (FRENCH

GASEOUS DIFFUSION GROUP) DECIDES TO BUILD AN ENRICHMENT PLANT, THE FRENCH MAY PRESSURE THE EC TO ESTABLISH A BUY-COMMUNITY POLICY FOR THEIR ENRICHMENT CAPACITY. EURODIF HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IF A PLANT IS TO BE BUILT, IT WOULD HAVE A CAPACITY OF 8,000 - 9,000 TONS OF SEPARATIVE WORK PER YEAR. URENCO (THE GERMAN, UK AND DUTCH GAS CENTRIFUGE GROUP) HAS ANNOUNCED ITS PLANS TO INSTALL AT LEAST 2,000 TONS PER YEAR ENRICHMENT CAPACITY BY 1980 AND 10,000 TONS PER YEAR BY 1985. THE LATTER WOULD REQUIRE FIRM ORDERS. WITH THIS POTENTIAL CAPACITY ABLE TO MEET THE ESTIMATED COMMUNITY DEMAND THROUGH 1985, THE US COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM COMPETING IN THE COMMUNITY MARKET FOR THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM WHILE THE COMMUNITY SUPPLY IS GREATER THAN THE DEMAND. THE POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING EURODIF AND URENCO INTO A SINGLE SUPPLY SOURCE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES (SEE BRUSSELS 5572), BUT TO DATE, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF STRONG OBJECTIONS BY THE UTILITIES, MAINLY THE GERMANS AND BRITISH. GREENWALD

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